THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No such proposals have been received. However, the work of provision of additional facilities at Kurla Passenger Terminus to facilitate running of extra trains from Kurla, is an approved work. Detailed planning and development of Master Plan in consultation with Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), is presently in progress.

Modernisation of Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh

2109. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise some railway stations in Andhra Pradesh in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken whenever so warranted due to growth in passenger traffic and changes in traffic pattern, subject to availability of funds.

Details of various works already taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh are as under:

	Particulars of works	Anticipated cost in lakh Rs.
1.	Secunderabad, Hyderabad & Kazipet Provision washable aprons.	120.00
2.	Hyderabad—Remodelling of station building	253.72
3.	Vijayawada & Secunderabad provision of escalators.	160.00
4.	Vizianagram-new concourse, booking office, and improvement to circulating area.	130.34
5.	Vizianagram-provision of washable aprons	79.76
6.	Vijayawada—Washable aprons on Line No. 4	30.41
7.	Ananthapur—Raising of platform.	20.57
8.	Cuddapah—Extension of platform shed	17.25
9.	Renigunta—Extension of platform shed & remodelling of booking office.	27.00
10.	Tirupati—Washable apron on line No. 5	43.81

Revival of Moirabari-Haibargaon and Silghat-Chaparmukh M.G. line in Assam

2110. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for revival of Moirabari-Haibargaon and Silghat-Chaparmukh Meter Gauge line in Assam was considered by Government during the year 1997;

(b) whether gauge conversions of these lines were also included in the said proposals;

(c) if so, the details of the project and financial allocations made and progress made so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) After examination of the proposal it was decided by the Govt. to restore the MG line on the section for operation of rail buses.

Proposal for new railway lines/routes in Punjab

2111. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct survery for constructing new railway lines, conversion of meter gauge to broad gauge and introducing new rail routes in the State of Punjab in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The following surveys are in progress for construction of new lines in Punjab:—

(i) Kapurthala-Beas (23 kms.)
(ii) Patiala-Jakhal/Narwana via Samana (150 kms.)
(iii) Hoshiarpur to Una (35 kms.)

As regards introducing new rail routes in Punjab, construction of a rail bus siding from Beas to Dera Baba Jaimal Singh has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis with the Dera Authorities.

In addition, the following new line works in Punjab are included in the Railway Budget:—

(a) Chandigarh — Ludhiana

(b) Abohar — Fazilka

(c) Taran Taran — Goindwal

These works will be taken up after ob taining the requisite clearances.

There is no metre gauge lines in the State of Punjab. The only N.G. line in the State is the part of the Kangra — Valley Railway near Pathankot. Survey for conversion of this line to BG is already in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible after the survey report is received.

South East Coast Railway Zone at Waltair

2112. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for formation of South East Coast Railway Zone at Waltair; and

(b) if so, the details of the resolution of Andhra Pradesh legislature in this regard and measures taken to ensure that Visakhapatnam Railway Division is not merged with new Zonal Headquarter at Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

The Andhra Pradesh Legislature adopted a resolution dated 13.9.96 on the following issues:—

1. For formation of new South East Coast Railway Zone with its headquarters at Waltair.

2. To bring

(a) Duvvada-Palasa (South Eastern Railway)

(b) Vizianagaram-Koneru of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(c) Naupada-Patapatnam of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(d) Kothavalasa-Garapur of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(e) a portion of Palasa-Ichapuram of A.P. (S.E. Railway)

Under the control of proposed new South East Coast Railway Zone with headquaters at Waltair or under the control of South Central Railway.

3. Not to transfer Hubli Division from the South Central Railway, Secunderabad to the newly proposed Railway Zone with headquarters at Bangalore.

4. Not to merge Visakhapatnam Railway Division with the proposed new Railway Zone with Bhubaneswar as its headquarters.

In regard to the above, it is stated that taking the various factors into consideration, the Government has decided to set up six new Zones at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur. The inaugural functions for these Zones have been held. As per RRC recommendations territorial jurisdiction is not to be decided on the ethnic, territorial or linguistic consideration. As regards other issue raised, the territorial jurisdictions of the East Coast Railway and the South Western Railway have not yet been finalised. A final decision will be taken after consultation with concerned authorities.

Black marketing of reserved tickets

2113. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reserved tickets for trains are being sold in black in these days and public has to purchase the ticket from the middlemen by paying hundred rupees extra per ticket;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be